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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEINER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 17, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANTHONY D. WEINER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, who graces the open field with wild flowers and will not allow the sparrow to fall from the sky, You invite us not to worry about needless things.

Certainly there are problems this Congress and every American must face and do their best to solve. It is the unsolvable problem, the indifferent attitude, and the cold heart we must turn over to You.

Because anxiety and anger often enough create heat but no light, we also turn to You in prayer and seek Your wisdom.

With faith in Your faithfulness, Lord, we can reduce fear and hesitancy. By living in Your presence and knowing Your love for us, for others, even our enemies, we can conquer internal conflicts and be better in our self-defense and wiser in our judgments.

So be with us, Lord, and with our military forces now and in the hour of our greatest need. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PORTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 62. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Children and Families Day, in order to encourage adults in the United States to support and listen to children and to help children throughout the Nation achieve their hopes and dreams, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 79. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

H. Con. Res. 121. Concurrent resolution recognizing the benefits and importance of school-based music education, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 123. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Republicans were forced repeatedly to use procedural maneuvers to protest the unjust proposed change of current House rules denying the minority's right to participate in floor debate.

The political headlines today are correct: "Dems Bend Rules, Break Pledge." If enacted, this would be the first change to such a rule since 1822.

After declaring to run the "most open Congress in history," Democrat leaders have repeatedly broken this promise and sought to stifle the minority's voice, beginning with their first 100 hours and now even through 100 days.

If Democrat leaders are intent on suppressing the representative voice of nearly half of the American population, Republicans are left with no choice but to fight for our right of participation in the legislative process.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

ETHICS REFORM

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as the ethical cloud of the last dozen years has hovered over Congress, I am proud that the new Democratic Members are aggressively pursuing an agenda of ethics reform. Long overdue.

I have introduced bipartisan legislation with my Oregon colleague, GREG WALDEN, to help establish an independent commission to do the hard work of professionally investigating and evaluating ethics charges. I am hopeful that some provision of that nature will find its way to the floor. The

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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